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Donations Accepted Edition No. 116

Thursday, July 30, 2015

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

During July, three applicants for the position of principal at the district's two elementary schools, Brookside and Blosser Lane, either withdrew their applications or declined to accept a job offer.

Read the rest of
Principals |
Over on Page 13

Zack Cinek
Reporter
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The Skunk Train has one proposal for the property, while Ed Mitchell leads a competing project. The Skunk's Robert Pinoli and Mitchell previously pitched their projects to council members, but the council took no action.

A trust formed to oversee cleanup of the contaminated industrial property needs to rid itself of the property

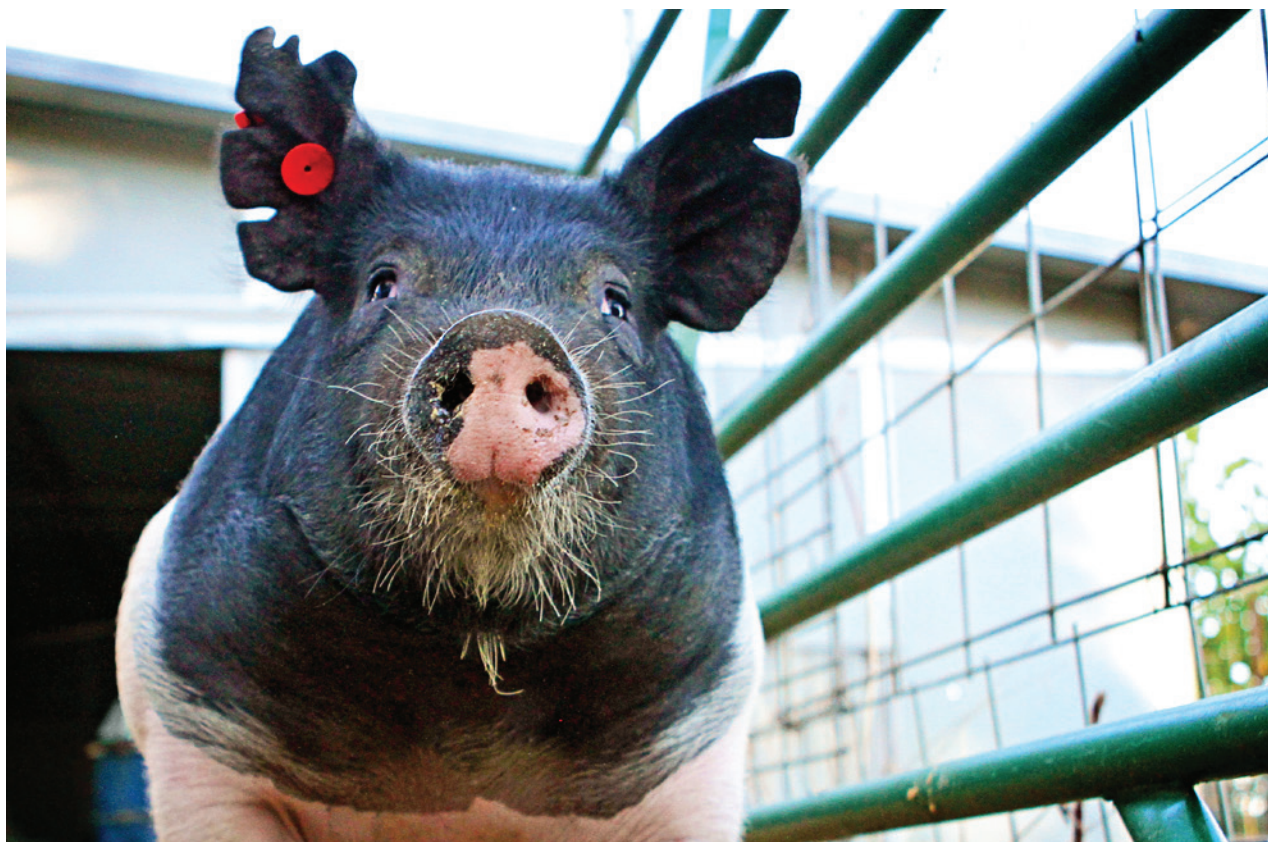
Read the rest of
Remco
Over on Page 13

Mike A'Dair
Reporter
mike@willitsweekly.com

Nineteen seats on the governing boards of nine special districts are up for election in Mendocino County this November, and the deadline for filing papers to run for office is only a week away. The following is a review of particulars for five special districts in the Willits area.

A five-seat board manages the local fire district, which is charged with fire protection in Willits and Little Lake Valley. The district has an

Read the rest of
Election |
Over on Page 13



Youth exhibitors prepare for next weekend's livestock auction

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
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This is especially true for first-time exhibitors who are excited to see what “going to fair” is all about. Willits FFA's Devin Heiken, 15, soon-to-be sophomore and first-year FFA student, will be attending the fair and auction for the first time with a market animal, a crossbred hog named Hank.

Though he has had family dogs and cats in the past, Hank is Heiken's first animal to care for officially. Heiken is housing Hank alongside many other market animals at the Willits High School Ag Farm. Heiken is grateful for assistance from his mom Dea Heiken, as well as guidance from veteran pig-raiser Ashley Edwards (Heiken's cousin), partner and fellow hog-raiser Sierra Skinner, aunt Amanda Britton, and FFA Advisor Kelley Case.

Heiken is excited to see Hank's progress from nervous piglet several months ago to today's almost dog-like hog, who goes on walks and likes scratches on the back.

“Everyone said raising hogs was easy,” said Heiken. “I think it’s actually a lot of work ... but it’s fun too! You don’t just dump out feed and leave, you have to work with them, get them used to walking with the stick, and spend time with them. Every time I’m out here, I work with Hank, and he’s coming along great.”

After spending so much time with their animals, parting ways early Sunday morning after the Saturday auction can be difficult for the exhibitors, but receiving the auction check at the Sunday awards ceremony can help ease the morning's activities. Heiken is hoping the money he is able to raise from his hog will help him to purchase a vehicle for the coming school year. He invites the

community to come down and bid on his hog or on any of the other lots offered during the Saturday sale.

Supporting the Junior Livestock Auction by purchasing an animal is not only a great way to support the raising of local livestock (who enjoy life with tasty food, attention and room to run), but also to teach the students about responsibility, money management and where food comes from. Buyers can come and sign up before noon, when the action starts. A buyers' luncheon is held at the south end of the fairground's parking lot, where buyers can enjoy a meal, meet some of the exhibitors, and review the lot list, which outlines each animal's weight, species and order of show during the auction.

Animals are paid for by the pound and can be shared among businesses, groups of people or large or (freezer-friendly!) small families. For information on how to sign up to be a buyer or for more information about the livestock auction, contact the fair at 462-FAIR.

Heiken joked that the winner of his hog just might also walk away with a great family recipe for pork chops from his Uncle Randal.

"One of my favorite pork recipes is my uncle's grilled chops," said Heiken. "He marinates and seasons them, and then cooks them on the grill. They're delicious!"



At top: *Hank the hog curiously checks out the camera.*

Above, top:
*Willits FFA's
Devin Heiken
works with
Hank, with the
pig stick.*

Above: Mom
Dea Heiken
poses with
first-time
fairgoer Devin.

Below: Devin Heiken poses with Hank the hog at the Willits High School Ag Farm.

*Photos by
Maureen Moore*



Zack Cinek
Reporter
zack@willitsweekly.com

Council members denied a use permit last week to relocate John's Place to a building across the highway from the old Vassar's Pizzeria on a 2-3 vote.

John's Place owner Dan Chesser sought approval to relocate the bar, which has had no place of business since a fire last November.

"I feel this business has always been an asset to the community, and if you ever went to John's Place and saw pictures of old-timers – you would see this place is a legacy," Willits resident Marcia Hetherington said.

Some who attended the meeting were concerned about the location, but others were there to show

Read the rest of **Permit** |
Over on Page 13

Zack Cinek
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The city, air ambulance company REACH, and Willits group Keep the Code have reached an agreement to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the city's approval of REACH's Ellis Field base.

City council members approved the settlement 4-1 when they met in closed session at the last council meeting, City Manager Adrienne Moore stated.

An agreement between the city, REACH and Keep the Code, the organization that challenged Willits' approval of the project, required almost nothing

Read the rest of
REACH |
Over on Page 13

Mike A'Dair
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Led by Albion-Little River Fire Protection District Fire Chief Ted Williams, a group of firefighters and citizens has announced plans to circulate an initiative petition to address the practice of "hack and squirt" on private timberlands in Mendocino County.

The proponents of the petition, filed Tuesday with the Mendocino County elections office, hope to gather enough signatures

Read the rest of
Petition |
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Seeking Youth Soccer sponsors

To the Editor:

Willits Youth Soccer is looking for community-oriented businesses that would be willing to sponsor a quality sports program. WYS provides team building, leadership skills and self-esteem in local youth. We serve approximately 300 children, age 3 to 15 years old.

This year we have a record number of players and are in need of more sponsors. Our sponsors pay \$300. This money pays for player equipment, safety gear, referees, and field maintenance. Each sponsor receives a banner present at each game and during the Opening Day Ceremony, a games schedule with their company name on it, player trophies with the sponsor name on it, and a team photograph/thank you plaque. WYS could not make this program possible without these sponsors.

This year's sponsors thus far: (please patronize them) J.D Redhouse; Old Mission Pizza; Howard Foundation; 101 Trailer; Scotts Tanks; Sparetime Supply; Dripworks Savings Bank; Imagination Station; Ace Copy & Shipping; Browns Corner; Northbrook Healthcare Center; San Hedrin Nursery; Willits Mini Storage; Little Lake Auto Parts; Garman Construction; Lisa Epstein Insurance; Mendocino Customs; and Greenstone Landscaping.

For more information, please check the Willits Youth Soccer page on Facebook, or text or call 354-2539 or email saprina@rodriguez@gmail.com.

Saprina Rodriguez, president,
Willits Youth Soccer

Arson incident

To the Editor:

Last night [Thursday, July 23] the Little Lake Fire Protection District was advised of a recycle bin fire near Adam's Restaurant around 10pm.

Fire was controlled by locals who discovered the fire, pulling the bin away from the structure, and extinguishing the fire in the alley near Niko's.

The fire was investigated, and we are ruling it as an intentional act of arson.

A male subject was seen leaving the area prior to the discovery of the fire, wearing a dark hoodie.

The bin was actually located in front of the Goods' Shoppe.

Anyone having any information, including eyewitness descriptions or security video, please contact the Willits Police Department (459-6122) or Fire Department (459-6271).

I do not know if this event is connected with the recent vandalism, but everyone needs to keep a vigil and protect our community.

Carl Magann, fire chief,
Little Lake Fire Protection District

Wonderful memories of Nadine Clatty

To the Editor:

At half her age when I was 16 and 17 years old in the early 1960s, I recall Nadine Clatty (then Bloomquist) not only as a meat wrapper at the Star Super Market that my parents built and owned for several years, but also her often doing evening duty with me at the front checkout counter. Nadine and our butcher Glenn Yokum were a great team in the meat market, and Nadine and I were a great checkout team.

Nadine was a delightful, energizing and sweet woman to

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

work with and know. The obituary photo perfectly captures her delightful friendliness. She left wonderful memories for our family, especially for our mother, Maxey Clark, whose 75th birthday celebration Nadine attended at our house in Piedmont in 1996.

At one point Nadine rented an apartment from Maxey at the former DeLong's motel property (by that time converted to rentals and now demolished as part of the Les Schwab business). I last saw Nadine one morning in 2014 when she drove around the Pine Street curve onto Coast Street. She saw me on the sidewalk, stopped her car in the street, got out, and gave me a big hug. Nadine's passing leaves a big hole in our heart. The Clark family will never forget Nadine.

Tom Clark, Piedmont

Local First says thanks

To the Editor:

The Hometown Celebration has come and gone, but before we forget entirely all of the hard work and creativity necessary to host a party for the entire town, the Local First committee of the Willits Chamber of Commerce would like to say thank you.

For the eighth year in a row we'd like to thank the City of Willits for generously allowing us to close side streets and the city parking lot on Van Lane for food booths, entertainment and vendors. We'd especially like to thank our sponsors for their generous support of the event: Cat's Meow, Celtic Heritage Destinations, George's Geodes & Gems, J.D. Redhouse & Co., Alfred Kerr, DDS, Kimberly's Jewelry, Les Schwab Tire Center, Lisa Epstein State Farm Insurance, Main Street Music & Video, Mariposa Market, Noyo Theatre, REACH Air Medical Services, Henry Rued, DDS, and Scoops Frozen Yogurt & Deli.

We'd also like to thank Mike Ireton, owner of WillitsOnLine, for allowing us to use his parking lot for vendor booths and to the Hathaway family for graciously allowing the community to once again turn their parking lot into a courtyard of kid's activities and vendor booths, and for allowing celebration-goers access to their restrooms.

Additionally we'd like to thank Jacqui Morninglight for coordinating all of the musicians and our first-ever Local Center Stage, Printing Plus for printing our posters, The Willits News and Willits Weekly for their enthusiastic coverage and support of our Hometown Celebrations, all of the vendors who lugged their displays down during a heat wave and cheerfully greeted the town, all the downtown businesses who paid to participate and kept their doors open later than usual, Ashtan Bloomquist of J.D. Redhouse for organizing the first-ever Community Art Project/Boot Decorating Contest, and all of the behind-the-scenes volunteers who collected prizes for the wheel, encouraged businesses to sign up, helped set up booths and take down booths, and who one week later showed up for an early morning meeting to discuss how to do it all again next year.

And finally, we'd like to thank YOU, the Willits community, for coming out to mingle and dance and sample some tasty food. Despite the heat and the traffic, you all came downtown and made the party a huge, hometown success. Thank you Willits!

The Local First Committee,

Willits Chamber of Commerce

Thanks to Willits Police

To the Editor:

The current nationwide political climate has drawn a lot of scrutiny towards law enforcement. It is an important job in our community fabric; one which bears a ton of responsibility and wields a great deal of power.

I am continually impressed with our local officers at the City of Willits. We do not pay the most, and the department does not have the newest bells and whistles, but our officers are skilled professionals.

Twice in the past year there have been incidents where use of force would have been justified, but our team was able to diffuse the incidents without any loss of life.

Thank you, Willits PD for all you do. I know that your job is not easy and that you often deal with the most negative aspects of our community. At a time when the national conversation is about all that law enforcement does wrong, I am proud of what we do right. Your sacrifice is appreciated.

Holly Madrigal, Willits City Council

Green Uprising farm stand

To the Editor:

Dear loyal friends of local food: Now that the summer crops are really here, this is a reminder that Green Uprising Farm's roadside farm stand at 2301 East Hill Road is open Friday through Monday from 4 to 7 pm.

We have lots of cucumbers, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, garlic, chard, plums and berries. It is a self-serve farm stand based on the honor system. So, come and serve yourself.

You may see us working in the garden when you come by, so don't hesitate to stop in and say hi! And, every Sunday from 10 am to 1 pm is volunteer workday. Come work in the garden, and trade your hard work and effort for fruit, veggies or milk. Call to sign-up for volunteer workday at 707-216-5549.

Sara Grusky, Green Uprising Farm, Willits

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www.WillitsWeekly.com



Willits City Pool open to the public until August 22

There's still time to splish and splash at the Willits City Pool until August 22, when its lanes are pulled for good this summer and stored away until next year.

The pool is open from 6 am to 7:30 pm Monday through Friday, and there are lots of options throughout the day to enjoy.

From 6 am to 8 am there is lap swim for \$5 per person and from 9 am to noon there are swim lessons. The last session of swim lessons is scheduled to start on August 3

through August 9. Lessons are \$50 for your first child, \$45 for your second child, and \$40 for each remaining child. Call the pool at 459-5778 to register for lessons.

From 1 to 4 pm there is open swim which is available for \$5 per person. From 4 to 6 pm there are swim lessons and lap swim available again, and then from 6 to 7:30 pm there is Otters Swim Practice.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, water aerobics is held from 12 to 1 pm. For seniors, water aerobics is \$6 and for adults, it is \$7.

Pool parties are also available for weekends; contact the pool at 459-5778 for more information.

– Maureen Moore

Above, from left: Sisters Macy and Madison Lawrence sunbathe for a moment after their pool time. A courageous diver does a reverse dive off the board. Two lifeguards have fun demonstrating a water rescue. Left: Lifeguards on duty Monday afternoon included, from left, back row: Judy Bordelon and Gaby Velasco; front row: Seth Johnson, Jacob Stubberfield, Devina Cash, Shybreaze Fischbach, Jacob King, Chris Gutierrez and Viviana Cardona. Below: A diver heads towards the pool.

Photos by Maureen Moore



Left: Willits Kids Club kids, plus, in back row, from left to right: Diane Heath, Kids Club site coordinator for Blosser Lane, Kris Wagner, Kids Club director, Charity Seminoff, who's been working with Kids Club for 10 years now, and Filemon Lara-Lopez, who was a Willits Kids Club kid himself.

Photo by Jennifer Poole

Kids Club fundraising drive up to \$8,560

Willits Weekly caught some of the Willits Kids Club crew for a photo opportunity at their Main Street fundraising "thermometer" Tuesday afternoon, on their way to a swim in the cool city pool.

The kids are happy to report the fundraising total for new Kids Club portables to be installed near the main clubhouse on the Blosser Lane Elementary School campus is up to \$8,560.

Willits Kids Club hopes to raise \$32,000 to help pay for the new project, which will house third- to fifth-graders whose previous space at Blosser Lane is now being used by the Willits Unified School District offices.

Donations can be sent in the mail to Willits Kids Club, P.O. Box 1845, Willits CA 95490, or donors can visit a crowd-funding page set up with YouCaring.com. Just go to the site and search for "Willits Kids Club."

Kids Club's Summer Day Camp is continuing through August 15, and there's still room for more kids. The program offers many different options, as far as time and cost, and is open to children going into Kindergarten through those in seventh grade. More information about the day camp program is available on the Kids Club website, www.willitskidsclub.org, or call 459-9201.

– Jennifer Poole

Redwood Empire Fair Western Round-Up August 6 - 9, 2015



Live Entertainment on Willow Tree Stage

Thursday • Severance
Friday • Waylon & The Wild Cats
Saturday • Il Big
Sunday • Banda Pacifica & Others



T&T Towing Day!
Thursday, August 6th
Kids (12 & under) and Seniors (65 +) get in FREE from 3 - 6 pm

FREE Nightly Motorsports Action in the Grandstands

Thursday 7 pm • Super TT & Motorhome Destruction Derby
Friday 7 pm • Mudd Bogs
Saturday 7 pm • Truck & Tractor Pulls
Sunday 6 pm • Auto & Boat Races

UNLIMITED RIDES JUST \$22

Save \$5 on Carnival Wristbands Now!

Ride wristbands are good any one day of the Fair.
All Presales end at 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 6th!
www.redwoodempirefair.com

Wristbands available at:
Taco Bell Ukiah • Raley's Grocery Outlet Ukiah
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JD Redhouse - Willits
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& the Fair Office



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Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters focusing on Willits and 3rd District issues, activities, events and people have priority. Willits Weekly prints letters from residents of Willits and the 3rd District only. To encourage a variety of voices, Willits Weekly limits letter publication from any one writer to once a month.

Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred. Letters and commentaries must be submitted with a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No letters from an anonymous source will be published, although a request to withhold the writer's name will be considered.

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A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

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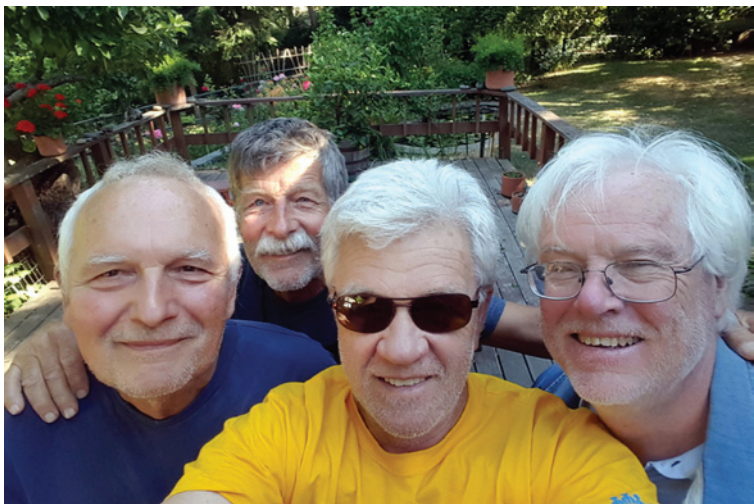
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Below: Louis Rohlicek, left, with friends Gary Eno, Tom Sipes and Phil Williams. Right: Camping on the Trinity River.



Canoeing in the time of the drought

"As predicted the rivers are running dry. The only rivers with good runnable flow are the Trinity and the lower Klamath."

This was a May message from Phil, our hydrologist and canoeing mate. He suggested the Trinity.

Gary and Tom liked it. I was not enthusiastic.

Louis Rohlicek
Contributing Writer

There is no question that the Trinity is a beautiful river.

It's deep and wide, flowing through a forested gorge. There is "lining" involved (dragging the canoe through a rapid), and even "portaging" (carrying everything over dry land around a rapid). Often it depends on the amount of water in the river. But the Trinity makes for ideal canoeing, with beautiful campsites and just enough white water to make it exciting.

Portages are a nuisance, but it wasn't the possibility of carrying everything around a rapid that made me uneasy. The last time we canoed the Trinity, we had a crazy encounter that I didn't want to repeat.

We had entered a stretch of river that had some rough white water. It was late afternoon. We were tired. We opted for dragging the canoes through the shallow banks, skirting the white water in the middle. As we were wading along the shore, a roaring sound rose up. A jet boat shot at top speed around a curve, plowing through the deep current, and disappearing around the next bend. If we had stayed in the main current, we would have been smashed to smithereens. The two young dudes in the jet boat never acknowledged us. We were not in their universe. We saw them a couple of times again in the next few days.

I didn't want to encounter that jet boat again.

Phil came up with an option. He had researched a stretch of the South Fork of the Trinity that we had never canoed before. It met the main fork of the Trinity above Willow Creek. We could run the main fork about 14 more miles past Willow Creek and take out at a state campground on the river. By avoiding most of the main fork, we might avoid a repetition of our close brush with the grim reaper.

Our plan was to canoe about 30 miles of river. In our younger days we could have done the whole trip in a couple of days. But now that we're card-carrying seniors, long in the tooth and willing to forego speed for simpler pleasures, we like to take our time. We can still maneuver through white water rapids and enjoy the challenge. But increasingly we enjoy spending two days



Canoe camp on the Trinity.



on some remote c a m p s i t e , next to a deep swimming hole with a sandy beach, lingering over breakfast coffee, and making very few plans for

the day ahead.

We assembled in Willits before noon on a Friday in the middle of June. Gary had just returned from a trip to England the night before we met up. He arrived in Willits very jet-lagged but happy to be going on the river again. But he had a little problem. He forgot his sleeping bag. I lent him one of mine. Tom came with his Tundra pick-up truck loaded with gear and canoes. Phil had his survey maps, to chart the course and foresee the future. All was well.

It was too late to launch that day. We stopped in Eureka and checked into the Eureka Inn for the night. Tom got us watching game 4 of the NBA championship. As the only genuine sports fan among us, Tom was happy with the Warrior victory over LeBron James that night. But the rest of the play-offs would occur while we were on the river. No cell phone reception. No TV. Possibly an airplane towing a banner in the sky, proclaiming a Warrior victory. But in case that didn't happen, Tom would have to wait seven days until we pulled our canoes out of the water.

We shopped for provisions at the Eureka Co-op in the morning, loading up two shopping carts full of essentials. Tom and Phil handled the checkout, so they could get their frequent-flyer bonuses.

We drove back to the hotel with our supplies, figuring it would be easier to pack the coolers and buckets in the Inn's parking lot. We unloaded the goods and started packing. The stash seemed on the light side.

"Hey, where are my Tofurkey Beer Brats ... and my spicy seitan?" I couldn't find any of my vegetarian entrees. Their chicken and steaks were missing too. Other items seemed to have disappeared.

Tom hurriedly drove back to the Co-op. There he found the manager, who had been trying to figure out what to do with a full shopping cart of purchased food, beer and wine, left behind by some old guys on a shopping spree.

"This is serious, chaps," Phil announced. "It's finally come to this. We're in serious need of a caregiver. Any volunteers?"

It was recognized that I was the only canoer who hadn't forgotten anything yet. I got the unanimous vote.

"Don't forget to buckle up," I reminded my wards as we set off toward Willow Creek.

Our put-in was about 15 miles above Willow Creek, at a spot where a bridge had once stood. A narrow road led to the site. A lot of cars were parked at the road's end.

A heavy metal bar prevented cars from getting close to the water. This meant we had to carry all our gear and the canoes about 200 yards from the parking area to the water. The temperature was 103 degrees.

The plan was for Tom to drive his truck back to Willow Creek, leave it safely parked, and catch a ride back to the river. The rest of us would carry the gear to the water's edge. Obviously riddled with guilt over his comfortable ride to town while his pals labored in the blazing heat, Tom sought to ease his pain. "I'm sure some of these young guys here will offer to help you carry the stuff." Then he hopped into his air-conditioned Tundra and drove off.

Tom was referring to the young college crowd, enjoying the hot day in the river. Some were swimming. Some were sunbathing. Many were drinking beer. Most were naked, reveling in the beauty of their youth.

"I don't think we're going to get much help," Gary sadly observed, gazing at the happy scene below us. He picked up a heavy waterproof bag and started down the slope.

He was right. No one was eager to help. The young men seemed more interested in jumping off high rocks into cool, deep pools, clearly impressing the beautiful naked women in the water. It took about an hour to move everything to the water's edge.

We loaded the canoes and tied everything down. Tom showed up soon after, and we got ready to launch. It was then that I discovered that my life jacket was missing. I forgot to grab it and had left it in the truck.

To go back to get it would have taken so long that we'd have to postpone the launch till the next day. I had to think. Thanks to the drought, the South Fork was running quite low (about 250 fps/feet per second). This meant that any rapids we'd encounter would be quite shallow. The deep water would be in the calm stretches. We'd pass Willow Creek soon after the confluence with the Main Fork. We could stop and get the life jacket before we got into larger rapids. I decided to canoe without my full gear, and we launched.

My canoeing mates didn't strip me of my caretaker status. They probably forgot.

We paddled past the beautiful young people, sunning themselves on the rocks. They waved us goodbye, cheerfully wishing us a good trip, clearly impressed by four mature men setting off into the unknown.

Around the first bend, we ran into shallow rapids. Tom and Phil slipped through, Gary and I got stuck. The canoe immediately filled with rushing water. The water made the canoe very heavy. At the same time the current pressed the boat against a large rock. It took us 10 minutes to lift the canoe over the obstruction.

"Boy, I'm sure glad our college fans

didn't see this," Gary said, while bailing out the water. I totally agreed. Our stocks would have taken a huge plunge. We both tried to ignore Phil and Tom laughing from downstream at our struggles.

The river was about 50 feet wide. We encountered a lot of the shallow rapids. To avoid getting stuck again, we all dragged the canoes over the slippery rocks. Between the rapids were long stretches of calm, deep water.

The sun was getting low enough to create a shining glitter on the water surface. It made it harder to judge what was below the surface ahead of us. It was time to find a campsite.

We soon found a sandy beach for sleeping. It had a deep swimming hole in front of it and, higher up, flat, sandy shelves for sleeping. It was still very hot. We swam, unloaded the canoes, drank ice cold beer from one of the coolers, and set up camp. It was getting dark by the time we finished eating. There was no moon. We slept well.

After breakfast we broke camp as the heat was building. We were in a deep gorge, with high cliffs on both sides. Several side creeks had increased the water level enough to lessen the number of shallow rapids. There were now more passages deep enough to run the canoes between rocks.

After several hours of canoeing we entered a long stretch of calm, green water. The banks were lush with broad-leafed plants. Looking up, we saw an immense house, a virtual castle, perched above the river on the steep cliff. As we floated beneath it, I could hear 1920s cocktail music tinkling in the air. Someone was crooning a melody. Around the bend Gary told me he'd heard 1960s rock music. Tom and Phil, it turned out, heard other music. I'd read stories about things like this. When the sailors linger, someone beautiful always appears on the bank, enticing the naïve boatmen with offers of cool refreshment.

The consequences were inevitably horrible. Who knows what would have been in store for us if we had lingered? I might have seen Greta Garbo beckoning. Gary might have seen Janis Joplin waving to him. Tom and Phil might have seen the lead singer from Abba, gesturing in Swedish. We were lucky to get away from there in one piece.

Our luck continued. We soon found a beautiful campsite. It had all the assets we were looking for: a sandy beach, water deep enough for swimming, flat sleeping areas, and trees to provide shade. It was early afternoon. The sun was still hot. Tom and I read in the shade, while Gary and Phil napped.

When the sun got lower, it obliterated our shade. The other bank had plenty of shaded areas now. So we canoed to a shaded spot on the other side and played poker in the hot afternoon. When the shadows returned to the campsite, we canoed back. It was time to prepare dinner. After our meal, the conversation turned toward a much anticipated focus: the trials of old age..

At the beginning of this trip we spoke about avoiding one of the pitfalls of old guy get-togethers: talking about our growing list of ailments. It was decided that we'd each get a half hour to revel in our miseries. We decided to get it over with that evening. Gary, a retired neurologist and our doctor in residence, was elected unanimously to moderate the torrent of coming misfortunes. As a medical professional, he would be versed in diagnosing our maladies, and, above all, being very kind, he could feign genuine interest better than the rest of us. We other three would have to stifle our boredom, while waiting for the exciting half hour to reveal our personal aches and pains.

We started with Gary and went around clockwise. That made me last. That was really too bad. By the time I had my turn, I could tell interest was seriously flagging. I felt pressured to keep it short, even though there was so much to tell.

Read the rest of **Canoe** | *Over on Page 10*

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(PG13) 2 hrs 11 mins

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(PG) 13) 1 hr 45 mins

Fri/Sat:
12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00 & 9:15pm
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MINIONS in 2D

(PG) 1 hr 31 mins

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12noon, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 & 8:00pm

Movie Times for 7/31 thru 8/6

This Week's Tightwad Tuesday Titles are in **RED** - All tickets: \$5



Redwood Empire Fair Horse Show held last weekend in Willits

The FFA and 4-H horse show, the first event for the 2015 Redwood Empire Fair, was held last weekend at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo Grounds.

Several riders qualified for the Round Robin showmanship competition that will be held during the August 6 through 9 fair at the Ukiah fairgrounds.

Advanced FFA and 4-H showmanship winners will compete with other exhibitors who won their species classes for the overall showmanship winner award.

Shannon Whetzel of Ukiah Shamrocks 4-H won 4-H novice, Samantha Arms of Willits 4-H won 4-H intermediate and she also moved on to win 4-H advanced.

Jacob Crowhurst of Ukiah FFA won both the novice and then advanced FFA showmanship, as well. Both Crowhurst and Arms will move onto the Round Robin contest.

Daily high point and reserve awards were also given out for the age group divisions including



Above from left: Danielle Barry rides bareback. Natalie Campbell and Noah Willoughby in the Showmanship class. Emma Garman of Willits 4-H rides in one of the English classes. Right: Elaine Mancini leads Clara on Flower in the headline class. Below: Keely Ahders of Willits 4-H, left, and Samantha Arms of Willits 4-H, right, ride along the rail in the English classes.

Photos by Maureen Moore

Left: Age group high point winners Samantha Arms, Gracie Silva, Madison Forrester and Caitlyn Forrester.

Photo by Annette Pinon



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photography by maureen moore

Thursday, July 30

31st annual Reggae On The River: four-day festival starts today, featuring dozens of musical acts, more than 60 vending and non-profit booths, camping, and Kidlandia. Visit the festival website at <http://reggaeontheriver.com/> for the full schedule and music videos by performers. Headliners tonight are Fortunate Youth and King Jammys.

Shanachie Pub: Singer/Songwriter Night, with Dennis Chrip & Friends. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, July 31

31st annual Reggae On The River: four-day festival features dozens of musical acts, more than 60 vending and non-profit booths, camping, and Kidlandia. Visit the festival website at <http://reggaeontheriver.com/> for the full schedule and music videos by performers. Headliners tonight are Protogé & The Indignation and Cham.



Starchild Chocolate
Grand Opening: Noon to 9 pm at Starchild Chocolate, "Handcrafting award-winning chocolate from the bean!" 101 North Main Street. "Stop by and join us for our grand opening celebration. An event-filled evening with ribbon cutting, raffles, chocolate and treats." Info: 707-841-3104.

Shanachie Pub: with Redbud, Psychedelic Rock: "a fun, original, quirky, danceable local favorite." 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, August 1

Book Signing and Poetry Reading: Liam UíCearbhaill's Poetry's Purpose: The poet will be reciting his verse and signing his new collection at 101 Donuts & Burgers. Donuts, Coffee, and Poetry! Saturday August 1, 2015 from 8:30 am to noon. 1661 South Main Street, #B.

WHS Alumni Soccer Tournament: Games begin at 9 am at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. All proceeds go to the WHS soccer program.

Valley Painters Present
4th Annual Graduation Exhibit with instructor Cynda Valle
August 1- August 30
Artist Reception August 1 7-9 pm
Hours: Thurs & Fri 4-7 pm
Sat. & Sun 12-3 pm
Willits Center for the Arts
71 E. Commercial St.
Willits CA 95490
(707) 459-1732

Cynda Valle

Marta Alonso Canillar

Rachel Schroeder

Along with the paintings of CMSA
(Cynda Mary's School of Art)

August 2 deadline for Community Health Survey

Healthy Mendocino and a coalition of partners has developed an anonymous, community-wide survey that Mendocino County residents are asked to complete by Sunday, August 2. The "needs assessment" survey hopes to identify the specific needs and challenges of the community.

The survey asks about a range of health issues, including gaps in health care services, general health and insurance information, and housing barriers, and more. It also asks respondents to identify the most pressing issues facing Mendocino County families. The survey is available at www.healthymendocino.org (click on "Community Health Needs Assessment"), and it is also available in print form, in English and Spanish, from one of these representatives: Patrice Mascolo, for Healthy Mendocino, at 467-3228 or healthymendocino@ncoinc.org; or Samantha Kinney, for Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency, at 472-2793 or kinneys@co.mendocino.ca.us.

Partners include: Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency, Ukiah Valley Medical Center, Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital, the Alliance for Rural Community Health, and North Coast Opportunities

The coalition will use the findings of the anonymous survey, along with information gathered through focus groups, a key informant survey, and publicly available data, to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan that prioritizes the health needs of Mendocino County residents and sets goals and short-and long-term strategies to achieve them.

— Patrice Mascolo, Healthy Mendocino coordinator

Aloha from the Lagtonville LU'AU
Experience the spirit of aloha and enjoy a tropical evening to benefit the Laytonville Skate Park.
• Live Hawaiian Music
• Island Style Dinner
• Hula Dancers
• Tiki Bar
• Vacation Raffle
• Best Hawaiian Shirt Contest!
SATURDAY AUGUST 29th 4PM-10PM
LAYTONVILLE RODEO GROUNDS
TICKETS: \$50
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"Teams are already forming, and it is always a great time! Dig out your old cleats and join the fun. It is a 7 vs 7 small-sided tournament with co-ed teams. Each team will have 4 males and 3 females on the field at a time. Tournament is done with a point system. The teams with the highest points will advance to the semi-finals and finals. There is also what is known as "The Battle of the Bad" where the two last-place teams battle head to head. This is a fun way to raise money for the WHS soccer program and a great way to catch up with old friends. Go Wolverines!" Team entry fee is \$100/team. The best way to sign up is by visiting our Facebook page "Willits High Alumni Soccer". You may also email summermanchester@gmail.com to be placed on a team."

Free Bridge Lessons: Free bridge lessons at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Deadly Defense" for students with basic bridge skills. Learn strategies to defeat the opponents' contract. Saturdays through August 22; 10:15 am to 12:15 pm at the Library Conference Room. For more info call Donna, 459-9035.

31st annual Reggae On The River: four-day festival features dozens of musical acts, more than 60 vending and non-profit booths, camping, and Kidlandia. Visit the festival website at <http://reggaeontheriver.com/> for the full schedule and music videos by performers. Headliners tonight are Tarrus Riley & Blak Soil and Stephen "Ragga" Marley.

Free Workshop on Hopland Cohousing: "You are invited to attend a free workshop about cohousing and the 15- to 20-unit community now being formed in beautiful rural Hopland. Learn how living in cohousing is good for your heart, mind, soul, and bank account. All ages welcome. Willits Library, 390 East Commercial Street, 1 to 3 pm. For more info contact Robin Rudderow, 415-298-6925, or follow us on Facebook at "Hopland Cohousing."

Opening Reception for "Valley Painters Present": the opening reception for the August show at the Willits Center for the Arts, "Valley Painters Present," is set for Saturday, August 1 from 4 to 7 pm. The show is the 4th annual Graduation Exhibit for students of instructor Cynda Valle, featuring oil paintings by Marta Alonso Canillar and Rachel Schroeder in the Main Room. "The other gallery will show the work of previous students of CMSA: 'Cynda Mary's School of Art,' as well as Cynda's own

work, and two local visiting artists: Walter Ayres and Tom Zephyrs." Exhibit runs through August 30 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1732.

Shanachie Pub: with Denmantau, "Bohemian/Dance Rock" from Hamburg, Germany, with openers, Crown Vicky, 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, August 2

31st annual Reggae On The River: closing day of the four-day festival featuring dozens of musical acts, more than 60 vending and non-profit booths, camping, and Kidlandia. Visit the festival website at <http://reggaeontheriver.com/> for the full schedule and music videos by performers. Headliners tonight are Nahko and Medicine For The People and Alborosie & Shengen Clan.

Animal Care-a-Van Vaccination Day in Laytonville: Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency is offering low cost vaccines for cats and dogs through their Care-a-

Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency Animal Care Services

Care-a-Van
THE CARE-A-VAN, MENDOCINO COUNTY'S MOBILE SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC IS ON THE ROAD AGAIN! Spay and neuter surgeries on by appointment only, please call in advance: 707-888-7698.
Vaccinations are \$10-13 each and do not need an appointment; stop by the Care-a-Van for vaccines 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

THE CARE-A-VAN WILL BE IN LAYTONVILLE
Sunday, August 2
Laytonville Feed Store
400 Branscomb Road

WORKING TO SAVE LIVES

Sunday Bingo: Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Doors open at 10:30 am; snack bar opens at 11 am; bingo buy in \$10. Info: 459-6826.

Farm to Table Benefit Dinner: The Lovin' Mama Farm to Table Benefit Dinner is set for Sunday, August 2 at 4:30 pm at the Frey Winery, 14000 Tomki Road in Redwood Valley. Enjoy a delicious, 100 percent Mendocino Farm to Table dinner created by Olan and Lia Cox of Mendough's Wood Fired Catering. Music by Way Out West (country swing and bluegrass). All proceeds to help Lovin' Mama Farm move to the Willits area. Tickets are available in Willits at Green Uprising Farm's stand at the Willits Farmers Market and at J.D. Redhouse. For more information, check www.lovingmamafarm.com.

Tuesday, August 4

Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre: All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's Tightwad Tuesday movies: "Pixels" (in 2D) and "Minions" (in 2D). For showtimes, visit: www.noyotheatre.com. 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6696.

Wednesday, August 5

Redwood Empire Fair: Cavy and Rabbit show, 8:30 am at the Ukiah fairgrounds. The poultry show, including the new division, market turkeys, also starts at 8:30 am. Goat show, including market and dairy, starts at 10 am. The dairy cattle show follows at 1:30 pm and dog show starts at 6 pm. More information: 462-FAIR.

Emandal Choral: The Emandal Choral is starting its 21st season on Wednesday, August 5, from 5 to 6:30 pm, at its new rehearsal space, the Great Hall at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. No auditions – open to all who love to sing. Rehearsals will continue Wednesday nights at the same time: 5 to 6:30 pm.

Thursday, August 6

Redwood Empire Fair: Market and breeding swine and sheep shows all start at 8 am at the Ukiah fairgrounds. Market and breeding beef show starts at 5 pm. More information: 462-FAIR.

78th annual Old Timers Baseball Game & BBQ

The 78th annual Old Timers Baseball Game – Willits vs. Laytonville – and BBQ is set for Saturday, August 15 at Harwood Park in Laytonville. Opening Ceremonies on Bud Harwood Field will start at 12 noon, and the baseball game starts at 1 pm. Interested in playing on the team? Must be 35 years or older. To sign up for the Willits team, contact Steve Spackman at 707-391-4675; to sign up for the Laytonville team, contact Deber Dodd at 707-972-8251.

The Old Timers Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the event; if you are interested in helping with this 78-year-old tradition, contact Nikki Waldon at 707-984-8089.

Nominate the Old Timers of the Year! Submit your nomination by August 1 to Laytonville Healthy Start's office, 44400 Willis Avenue in Laytonville (corner of Harwood Road and Willis Avenue), mail to P.O. Box 735, Laytonville, CA 95454, or visit the Old Timers Facebook page. One man and one woman from both Laytonville and Willits will be selected.

Necole Suttles and Ed Reinhart show sold out

Tickets are presently sold out for the Necole Suttles and Ed Reinhart shows at Willits Community Theatre. However, a limited number of tickets may be available at the door for patrons hoping to catch the rare performance of the four shows of country, blues, gospel, and jazz classics starting July 31. In the event of cancellations or no-shows, tickets will be offered to patrons at the door on a first-come, standby basis. WCT officials suggest that patrons can arrive early and sign up for the chance to obtain a last-minute seat. The ticket price remains \$20.

Marc Yaffee

— Steve Hellman, for WCT

What's Happening Around Town

Redwood Empire Fair: gates officially open to the public from 3 pm to midnight at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Performance by Severance on the Willow Tree Stage. Super TT & Motorhome Destruction Derby at 7 pm. Today is T&T Towing Day, when kids and seniors get free admission from 3 to 6 pm. Regular admission prices: \$9 adults, \$7 for children, seniors and for parking. Unlimited carnival ride passes are \$22 presale/\$27 at fair. More info: www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com or 462-FAIR

Shanachie Pub: Irish!, 5:30 pm and 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Friday, August 7

Redwood Empire Fair: gates officially open to the public from 3 pm to midnight at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Performance by Waylon & The Wild Cats on the Willow Tree Stage. Mudd Boggs contest at 7 pm. Admission prices: \$9 adults, \$7 for children, seniors and for parking. Unlimited carnival ride passes are \$22 presale/\$27 at fair. More info: www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com or 462-FAIR

Redwood Empire Fair: Swine showmanship starts at 8 am, and is followed by the pygmy goat show at 2 pm. Large animal round robin starts at 4 pm, and small animal round robin starts at 7 pm. More information: 462-FAIR.

Shanachie Pub: with Good God Damns!, 9 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Saturday, August 8

Redwood Empire Fair: gates officially open to the public from noon to midnight at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Performance by Il Big on the Willow Tree Stage. Truck and Tractor Pulls at 7 pm. Admission prices: \$9 adults, \$7 for children, seniors and for parking. Unlimited carnival ride passes are \$22 presale/\$27 at fair. More info: www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com or 462-FAIR

Redwood Empire Fair Junior Livestock Auction: starts at noon at the Ukiah Fairgrounds. Come bid on locally raised livestock from youth exhibitors. Easily sign up to be a new bidder before auction starts. More info: 462-FAIR.



Pet Adoption Day: Rascal's Rescue, working with the Ukiah Animal Shelter, presents a "Baby Shower Pet Adoption Day" – "Help Shower Pets with Gifts." 10 am to 2 pm at Willits Power & Hardware, 1600 South Main Street. "Bring a donation for the Ukiah Animal Shelter and get 10 percent off any one item (excluding power equipment). Adopt a pet and get a free bag of food." Suggested donations are: canned dog and cat food, new or gently used collars and leashes, and toys.

Shanachie Pub: Jacob Green. 8 pm. No cover. 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Sunday, August 9

Redwood Empire Fair: gates officially open to the public from noon to 11 pm at the Ukiah Fairgrounds for the final day. Performance by Banda Pacifica & Others on the Willow Tree Stage. Auto and Boat Races at 6 pm. Admission prices: \$9 adults, \$7 for children, seniors and for parking. Unlimited carnival ride passes are \$22 presale/\$27 at fair. More info: www.RedwoodEmpireFair.com or 462-FAIR

Senior Center Pancake Breakfast: 8 to 11 am, at Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. Pancakes, eggs any style, and your choice of sausage, ham, or bacon. Adults \$7, members \$6, kids \$5.

Save the Date! August 22 & 23

COVELO, CALIFORNIA

COLUMN | At the Movies

The Story: I know this won't sound funny. An alien invasion from a distant galaxy. Then ... picture this: giant 1980s video game centipedes descend from the sky with massive wide-open and hungry jaws ... and they are hunting humans ... and they are gorgeous jewel-like colors. Yes ... trippy ... in a seriously upsetting way. Clearly, Earth is Doomed! But Adam Sandler has got the photonic zap gun, and he's the master zipper. He's got friends. This movie is a comedy, and I laughed a lot!
My Thoughts: One. I wonder: Is a half-animated live action comedy adventure flick filled with 1980s references really for children? This movie has some mild but straightforward sex innuendo that is truly for adults as well as marital troubles and divorce as a plot points.
Two. Any movie Peter Dinklage is in, I'm for it. Michelle Monaghan ditto.
Three. The negative reviews you guys found online, or on the radio, or from mysterious trans-dimensional forces broadcasting directly into your brain from (maybe?) Albemuth ... well, screw 'em. I disagree.
Four. Whoever made the trailers for this flick gave away the punchlines for far too many scenes and should be tied-up in a burlap bag and dropped into a pond ... a deep one.
Parents: While there are some genuine adult issues, the kids will like the movie, and it has strong themes of redemption, honesty and being brave when called upon to show courage. And it's funny.
Willisan Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.

PIXELS

following Monday, August 17, at 6 pm at the Center for the Visual and Performing Arts on Mendocino College's Ukiah campus. The Ukiah auditions will be held in conjunction with auditions for the college's production of "The Matchmaker."

The call is for 10 men or boys and 6 women or girls, aged 15 years and up. "Fright Night" will rehearse in September and October and will open on Friday, October 16. It will play for 10 performances and will close on Saturday night, October 31 – Halloween!

Hard copies of the script are available at the front desk of the Willits Public Library. For electronic copies of the script, email producer Mike A'Dair at michaeldair69@yahoo.com and tell him you want an electronic copy of "Fright Night."

Ongoing Events

Willits Summer Farmers Market: from 3 to 6 pm every Thursday at City Park on East Commercial Street, with produce, local meats and fish, local grains, dinner, baked goods, gift items, chocolates, crafts, live music, the new edition of Willits Weekly, and more.

"Valley Painters Present": August show at the Willits Center for the Arts, "Valley Painters Present," with opening reception on Saturday, August 1 from 4 to 7 pm. The show is the 4th annual Graduation Exhibit for students of instructor Cynda Valle, featuring oil paintings by Marta Alonso Canillar and Rachel Schroeder in the Main Room. Exhibit runs through August 30 at WCA, 71 East Commercial Street. Gallery hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 4 to 7 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3 pm. Info: 459-1732.

Willits Frontier Twirlers: Monday night session at the Willits Center for the Arts. New beginner class runs from 7 to 8 pm, with dancing to follow from 8 to 9 pm. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. Caller/teacher Lawrence Johnson. Singles and couples and all ages are welcome. \$20/month (to help pay the caller), with young dancer scholarships available. Questions? Contact Emmy Good at Emmy@pacific.net or Jenny Watts at Wattsup@gmail.com.

Al-Anon Meeting: Every Thursday Night from 5:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Baechtel Creek Valley Community Room (behind Rite-Aid at the Evergreen Shopping Center. "Al-Anon Family groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience strength and hope to solve their common problems. We believe that alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery."

Drop-in Knitting Circle: Due to popular demand, the Willits Library is holding the drop-in knitting circle every Saturday of the month, from 3 to 4:30 pm at the Willits Branch Library, 390 East Commercial Street. "Bring your projects to share and show off! We will have expert knitters on board who can solve any problems and teach everyone to knit! Bring your own projects – we'll supply the coffee! Sign-ups are not necessary – everyone is welcome to drop in."

Cards and Games at Willits Library: free games in the Willits Library's Community Room. Tuesday bridge sessions from 1:30 to 3:30 pm; Thursday bridge sessions from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Saturday free bridge classes, 10:15 am to 12:15 pm, for new and review students. New "Deadly Defense" free bridge classes for students with basic bridge skills. 10:15 am to 12:15 pm; Saturdays through August 22, starting July 18. Info on bridge: Donna at 459-9035. Chess: Saturday afternoons from 2 to 4:30 pm; bring your chess set and have some fun with friends. All ability levels welcome. Info: Raymond at 841-0473.

Life Changes: Discussion and support group with Linda Posner, Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road.

Willits Community Drum Circle: 7 to 10 pm at the Saint Francis in the Redwoods Episcopal Church, 66 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Friday. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932.

Smoking Cessation Program: Free "Freedom from Smoking" class sponsored by the Frank R. Howard Memorial Hospital. Every Wednesday at the HHH Conference Room, 1 Madrone Street, 6 to 7 pm. RSVP to Jennifer Barrett at 707-540-4208. Walk-ins are always welcome.

Free Sheriff's Activity League programs: at Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street. Teen gym: Monday to Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 pm; Boxing: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 pm; Karate: Kids aged 5 to 10 from 6 to 7 pm, Tweens, Teens and Adults at 7 pm. All SAL programs free to the public. Info: www.facebook.com/MendocinoCountySheriffsYouthActivitiesLeague or Mike Tobin: 354-0565.

Shanachie Pub: Open Mic every Wednesday, 8 pm. Sign-ups start at 7 pm. Movie Night every Tuesday, 50 South Main Street, behind Adam's Restaurant. Info: 459-9194.

Karaoke Night at A's Redwood Room: Every Wednesday night, starting at 9 pm. 207 South Main Street 459-2444. With Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

Open Mic Jam at A's Redwood Room: Every Friday night, hosted by Dream Capsule Entertainment, featuring talented, established local musicians from all over Northern California. Jazz, Blues, Rock. New talent welcome. A's Redwood Room, 207 South Main Street; starting at 9 pm. Mr. Larry's New Orleans Outside BBQ Café Catering serving from 9 pm until 1:30 am. Questions? Call Mr. Larry: (707) 367-7865.

Laytonville Summer Farmers Market: Mondays from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Harwood Hall, 44400 Willis Avenue, Laytonville. Buy local: vegetables, juice, bakery, beef, lamb, pork, crafts, hot soup, baked goods, and more.

Willits High School Clean-Up Day

Saturday, August 15

"Please come out and help clean up the campus at Willits High School, 299 North Main Street. A fun work party, starting at 9 am; bring a broom and other supplies, and let us all lend a hand to make the campus beautiful for our kids."

Home Garden Tour

Saturday, 15 August 2015 10:00 AM
Easy Walking Tour of Willits West Side Gardens
Featuring Water-Wise Food Gardens
Meet at the Brookside School parking lot (north end of Spruce Street) for map & directions
Bring water and a parasol or hat!
Tour ends at the Brookside School Farm for lunch and music
Tour (with lunch) is FREE for children and current WELL members
\$15 donation for all others includes WELL membership through 2016
Information at well95490.org or call Madge at 459-1493



MendoLake Food Hub

helps connect up farmers and wholesale buyers

By Ian Fitzpatrick, Radiant Tribes

Demand for locally produced food has been growing steadily over the last several years. In order to meet that demand, local farmers – in concert with Farmers Guilds, granges, and organizations like North Coast Opportunities and certified farmers market associations – are working to rebuild a vibrant agricultural economy in Lake and Mendocino counties.

One piece of that puzzle is the MendoLake Food Hub, a project that is two years in to a three-year USDA Specialty Crop block grant administered by NCO. A specialty crop is defined as fruits, vegetables, herbs, tree nuts, honey, olives and olive oil, nursery plants, and cut flowers, in contrast to commodity crops like grains and soybeans. These USDA grants are designed to help specialty crop producers be more competitive in their local markets.

The MendoLake Food Hub aims to connect local buyers – like restaurants, grocery stores, schools and buying clubs – with local specialty crop farmers. “We want to re-create a system where there are creative endeavors and economic opportunities for everyone to engage in,” said MendoLake Food Hub Coordinator John Bailey. “We also want to ensure there is enough local food to meet local demand.”

Using a web-based system, farmers upload the produce they have for sale, and buyers select from available crops. After receiving the order, farmers drop produce at the closest cold storage “node”: the nodes are shipping containers converted into cold-storage structures. There are nodes in Willits, Ukiah, Caspar, Lakeport and Anderson Valley.

Mendocino Coast Produce, a Fort Bragg-based distribution company, picks up the produce from the nodes and delivers to buyers. The Hub takes care of accounting tasks such as billing buyers, paying vendors, and running reports, and also provides free marketing and technical trainings to participating farmers.

The Willits node is located at Wowser, and on Thursday, July 23, Wowser hosted a kick-off event for the Hub. A large crowd came to celebrate the work and the people involved in the process of creating the MendoLake Food Hub, which is being designed, built and tested thanks to the USDA grant with the goal of continuing to operate long after the funding ends.

In addition to speeches and a tour of the node, guests feasted on fresh appetizers prepared using cucumbers, melons, peaches, and carrots ordered through the Hub by April Cunningham, NCO’s Food Prep project coordinator. Cunningham and Bailey are working together to promote buying clubs so that interested individuals can purchase food in bulk from the Hub.

Bailey thanked Wowser for hosting both the event and the node. “It’s exciting to see this project get off the ground,” said Bailey. “Tonight is just the start. We will continue to learn and adjust, and I look forward to working with everyone to make local food production and distribution better and more efficient for

all of us.” Bailey explained that even though NCO and Wowser are two different organizations, they share the same goal of creating economic opportunity and creative endeavors resulting in a more self-reliant community.

Michael Foley of Green Uprising Farm in Willits also spoke, and told the audience that the Food Hub creates a new layer of revenue for his business. He acknowledged that local farmers will not get rich selling wholesale exclusively, but that it’s important to reach markets that were previously unattainable. The Food Hub takes away some of the burden and makes it possible to sell to new markets without incurring sales, marketing, accounting and transportation costs.

Building resilience was a major theme of the evening. Without any control over the global food system, commodity price spikes, oil shocks, weather, and global unrest are just a few examples of real impacts on food security. The community has much more control and stability if there is local infrastructure to grow and distribute food, and everyone benefits from buying locally.

Farms are small businesses, and business owners provide jobs. Dollars spent locally stay within the community instead of being shipped out of area to large corporate headquarters, which means more wealth circulates among community members.

“The Food Hub demonstrates a creative, local solution to the problems farmers have distributing their products in such a vast rural area,” said Ruthie King, director of operations at the Grange Farm School at Ridgewood Ranch. “There isn’t a silver bullet when it comes to creating a viable local food system. It’s going to take a lot of people asking the right questions and connecting the dots.”

Said Bailey, “The more we can work together to connect the dots instead of everyone trying to do it themselves, the better off we’ll all be.”

To learn more about the MendoLake Food Hub, visit www.mendolakefoodhub.com or call 467-3238. To inquire about joining or starting a buyer’s club, contact April Cunningham at acunningham@ncoinc.org or call 467-3212.

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Sudoku

			1		3		5	
6				9		2	1	
9				6		4		
				2			6	
5	7		4					1
4					6			
	8		7					
						1	7	3

Level: Advanced



How To Sudoku:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
10			11		12		13		14	
15				16		17			18	
	19			20				21		
	22						23			
		24					25			
				26				27		
		28	29					30	31	
		32						33		
	34			35				36		37
	39				40		41			42
43						44	45			
46					47				48	
50					51				52	
53						54				55

- ### CLUES ACROSS

 - Current unit
 - Antidiuretic hormone
 - "What's up?"
 - A female domestic
 - Animal catching device
 - Large tailless primate
 - Forearm bones
 - Agarwood oil
 - Japanese waist pouch
 - 36th President
 - Largest Mediterranean island
 - Nicklas Grossman's birthplace
 - Point that is one point E of NE
 - 1841 Rhode Is. rebellion
 - Largest CA city
 - Michigan
 - Visualized
 - Remain as is
 - The Volunteer state
 - Chinese painter Zhang
 - Small young herring
 - Reverences
- ### CLUES DOWN

 - A Dalton (physics)
 - Shopping complexes
 - Chinese transliteration system
 - Lack of normal muscle tone
 - Clobber
 - Pilgrimage to Mecca
 - Divine language of Hinduism
- Cape Verde capital
 - Optically formed duplicates
 - Travel around the world
 - Chills and fever
 - Tennis player Erlich
 - Elicit or derive
 - Small scissors cut
 - Thin continuous mark
 - Prevents harm to creatures
 - Belonging to a thing
 - A boy or youth
 - Old small French coin
- A sudden outburst
 - Laborer who does menial work
 - Move to music
 - Unit of loudness
 - Suitable for use as food
 - Financial gain
 - 14760, NY
 - Possessed
 - Saddle foot supports
 - Encircle with lace
 - Hindu religious teacher
 - Haulage
 - Faucet
 - 1509 Portuguese/Indian battle
 - Good Gosh!
 - Frame-ups
 - Pentyl
 - Covered with ivy
 - Painting on dry plaster
 - Colombia's 3rd largest city
 - Short fiber combed from long
 - Tolstoy's Karenina
 - Cologne

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Seasonal Laborer - City of Fort Bragg
Performs semi-skilled tasks in construction, repair, installation and maintenance of City public works facilities, buildings and grounds. Temporary position. Applications available at City Hall, 416 N Franklin St, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 or online at <http://city.fortbragg.com/>. Filing Deadline: OPEN UNTIL FILLED. EOE/AA/Drug Free Workplace.

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Administrative Assistant - Community Development
The City of Fort Bragg is accepting applications for an Administrative Assistant - Community Development. For job description, requirements & application, visit <http://city.fortbragg.com/>. Submit application & resume to City Hall, 416 N. Franklin Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437, 707-961-2823 or email completed application to hrinfo@fortbragg.com. Filing Deadline: 5:00 p.m. August 10, 2015. EOE/AA/Drug Free Workplace.

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Position Titles: • 6/7th Grade Teacher, Laytonville Elementary School, 1.0 FTE (2015/16 School Year) - 1 Probationary position. Requires a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. • K-12 Counselor, 0.2 FTE. Requires a Pupil Personnel Services Credential. Salary Range: Salary is based on the District's Certificated Salary Schedule and dependent upon education and teaching experience. \$43,896-\$58,624 FTE.

Application Procedure: Applications may be submitted to: Mallia Gordon, District Administrative Assistant, PO Box 868, Laytonville, CA 95454. In order to be considered for an interview, candidates should submit: District application form; Cover letter; Résumé; Unofficial transcripts; Copy of current credential; Three current letters of recommendation. Note: Applicants are advised that the meeting of stated job requirements does not assure invitation to interview. All candidates are welcome to make inquiries at any time. Application Deadline: All positions are open until filled. An Equal Opportunity Employer

Help Wanted

The Laytonville Unified School District announces the following vacancies:

Bus Mechanic: Sixteen hours per week. Salary Range: \$15.00-\$20.72/hour. Paid holidays and vacation. Application Deadline: Open Until Filled.

Director of Food Services: 8 hrs/day, 5 days/wk. 11 months per year, \$16,200-\$21.13/hr. Confidential position. Must possess or obtain Food Safety Certificate. Experience managing a kitchen or working in food service is preferred. Application Deadline: Open Until Filled

Health Tech/Secretary Registrar: 6 hours per day, 5 days per week. Salary Range: \$11.26-15.57/hour. Application Deadline: Open Until Filled.

Indian Education Program Coordinator: Seeking a qualified individual for the 2015/16 school year to coordinate Native American cultural activities in the Laytonville Unified School District. This position involves working closely with the local Cahto Tribe and the school district. Certificated teacher preferred, but not required. Stipend Position: \$2,000. Application Deadline: Open Until Filled.

Instructional Assistant: 3 hours per day, 5 days per week. Salary Range: \$10.16-13.81/hour. Application Deadline: Open Until Filled.

Special Education Instructional Assistant: 6 hours per day, 5 days per week. Salary Range: \$10.26-14.14/hr. Application Deadline: Open Until Filled.

For additional information and application please contact Mallia Gordon at (707) 984-6414; Laytonville Unified School District, PO Box 868, Laytonville, CA 95454.

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Volunteers Wanted

The Willits Senior Center has many areas where your expertise and talents are needed. Front Desk, Thrift Store, Dining Room, Sunday Bingo, Sunday Breakfast, Special Dinners, Landscaping, Garden, Firewood. Come join our Team. Call Mariya at 707-459-6826.

Yard Work Needed

Someone needed to dig up weeds on a 6 foot hill. Please call 459-2976.

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The rest of Canoe

From Page 4

Gary was an impeccable listener, offering diagnoses and explanation for mysterious maladies, from strange lights impinging on vision, to light-headedness, atrial fibrillation, intestinal blockage, iron deficiency anemia.... The last one perked us up. We all knew the diagnosis: "Tired Blood! Geritol! ... Next!!"

We were exhausted by the time the litany of despair ended. I felt light-headed just listening to it all. But it worked. We stayed off the topic of ailments from then on.

The campsite was so perfect that we spent another day. On the evening of the second day, as dinner was being prepared, something moved high on the cliff on the opposite bank. It was a huge, dead snag, falling silently. It crashed into the tree canopy below it. Suddenly it emerged from the trees, sliding down toward the river, and raising an immense cloud of dust as it thundered down. It stopped just short of the water. Its giant cloud crossed the river, engulfing us in dust. Finally the evening breeze blew it away. Bits and pieces of the broken trunk floated downstream along with the dust and dirt.

It all happened in about two minutes. We watched slack-jawed from our side. Its final plunge had broken it into three large sections, all resting above the river, waiting for the next winter flood to continue its journey.

We left the shattered log after breakfast and soon came to the confluence of the South Fork with the Main Fork of the Trinity. We were immediately in big water. Instead of the river being 50 feet wide, it became 100 feet wide. It was also much deeper. Where rocks would have forced us to drag canoes through shallow rapids earlier, we now rode over them. Where the river took sharp bends, we were able to diagonally shoot across the current and avoid the pile-up against some big rock. There was still occasional lining around some very rough water, but mostly we rode all the way to Willow Creek.

While Gary and Phil stayed with the canoes, Tom and I hitch-hiked into town. We got picked up by a fellow named Ron.

"You guys looked a little different from the regular hitch-hikers around here, so I picked you up."

"So who won game 5?" Tom needed to know.

"The Warriors. But that LeBron James was amazing. Until they stopped him in the fourth quarter."

We found the Tundra, got my life jacket, picked up a few essentials like more beer, ice and tonic at a Ray's Food Place, and backpacked to the river. We loaded, tied down the canoes, and headed

downstream.

After a short run of rapids the river flowed silently through the gorge. A mother duck and 15 ducklings hid in the shadows along the bank. A blue heron watched us as we floated by. A few ospreys and vultures wheeled overhead. The only sound was our paddles dipping into the water.

Our idyllic float ended at the sound of a roaring rapid. The river skirted a huge boulder and plunged into a boiling mass of white foam. This was Sugar Bowl Falls.

Running the falls was impossible for open canoes. The weight of the canoers and the gear would have swamped the canoes instantly. And there was not a shallow bank on either side of the river through which to drag the canoes. Even portage would have been difficult. The sides were steep and rocky. The best course was to work each canoe through the rapids, each man positioned at selected points along the river to receive the canoe and pass it down to the next man.

The left bank of the river looked easier. Unfortunately, Tom and I were on the right bank. We had to cross the river without getting swept into the waterfall. We worked our way upstream along the shore. Then we launched into the current. By paddling forward and angling the bow of the canoe toward the opposite bank, we let the river push us toward Phil and Gary.

Then the real work began.

While Phil held the canoes at the top of the rapid, Tom climbed up the large boulder at the edge of the falls. It would be his job to hang onto the rope tied to the rear of the canoe and keep the canoe from floating downstream once it was launched into the rapid. His was the most dangerous spot. If the canoe filled with water, it might weigh so much that it might pull Tom off his perch, into the white mass. He could let go, of course, but it would require quick reflexes. And then he might lose the beer and gin.

Gary was stationed below the boulder, ready to grab the canoe.

And I was at the bottom, near a quiet spot nestled in the current. My job was to grab the floating rope, pull the canoe, and stash it among the sheltering rocks.

I understood the drama about to take place, but I couldn't see it. There were too many boulders blocking my view. All I knew was that I might have to watch both Tom and the canoe floating by me in the stream. Tom's dilemma, his life or the beer, would be passed on to me. Enveloped in my trusty life jacket, I was ready to leap into the water.

But it all worked out as planned. Each canoe went down the shoot, bobbed up in the white water, and Tom pulled it in. Then it was passed to Gary and finally to me. The work was made all the more exhilarating by the roaring of the waterfall.

It took about an hour to work the canoes to a safe place, bail them out, and launch again. We were tired out, eager to find a campsite. We found one about half an hour below the falls. We pulled the canoes out of the water, unloaded, found some shade, and rewarded ourselves with

ice cold beer.

After we set up camp, a McNab-type sheep dog appeared, sniffing at our gear. He was soon followed by his human, who arrived on an ATV. His name was Dan, and he was the caretaker on the ranch that bordered this stretch of river.

Dan was friendly, at the same time letting us know in his own way that the place was owned and watched over. He was glad to see us cooking on a Coleman stove instead of a campfire.

"How did you deal with Sugar Bowl Falls?" Dan wanted to know. Tom told him the details of our extreme lining.

"Did you see any remnants of the jet boat in the water?" Dan asked.

"Jet boat?"
"Yeah," Dan drawled. "There were a couple of guys hot dogging on the river with their jet boat a while back. I guess they decided to run it up the falls. Didn't make it. The boat smashed on the rocks. The pieces are probably still under the falls. Anyway, you made it. Now, just be careful going through T-Bone Falls a little ways downstream. The water there piles up against the cliff face. You don't want to hit it. Well, got to go. You boys have a good trip."

The next morning we encountered T-Bone Falls. Dan was right. We didn't want to hit that cliff face. The water plowed right into it, before it dropped into a rapid. But this time we were lucky. A shallow channel skirted the T-Bone, and we dragged the canoes past.

Beyond the falls we were expecting to find a favorite campsite from the past: Sandy beaches below a steep forest, deep calm water for swimming, and, in the middle of the river, a large rock you could swim to and perch on. We called it the "Bear Campsite," because once a young bear kept coming down from the trees to steal our food.

That was 25 years ago. But today we found nothing left of the Bear Campsite. The beaches were gone, replaced by boulders. There were no flat camp sites.

There was only the rock in the middle of the river. It was barely recognizable. A cherished memory had been swept away. But that's how it is with powerful forces of nature. The river calls the shots and accepts no long-term reservations. We had to settle for another site nearby.

The next day we set out for our take-out at Tish Tang Campground. It was located on the edge of the Hoopa reservation. A dirt road led down to the river. We found the road thanks to Phil's survey map and pulled the canoes out of the water. We had survived another canoeing venture, despite a few embarrassing lapses of memory. I suspect we all wondered how long we old gaffers would continue to take these river trips. It was hard to predict. It may not be forever.

Phil, Gary and I unloaded the gear, washed out the canoes and coolers, and carried everything to the dirt road.

Tom set off to hitch-hike to Willow Creek to pick up his Tundra. He was the first to switch realities. He knew just what question to ask of the first person who picked him up: "So, who won the NBA championship?"



Above, from left: Miracles in Motion, the winning "Platinum" Relay team; the "30 mile club" tree; Janine Holliman, at left, Sharron Kidd and Katie Gage at the High Hopes booth; California Conservation Corps volunteers.

Willits Relayers raise \$44,000+

The 4th annual Relay For Life in Willits blasted through its \$40,000 goal to earn over \$44,000 for the American Cancer Society last weekend at the Rec Grove.

"We've been here 24 hours," said Relay chair Kathy Tobin Sunday morning, as the Relay For Life started winding up. "We've got a lot of blisters!"

And the money the Relayers raised will be used for cancer research, "to fight back and help people heal."

The Miracles in Motion Relay team won the "Platinum" Team award for raising the most funds. The Lady Bea's team walked a total of 61 miles plus 2 laps, and many teams were in the 30+ miles club.

Miles are measured by the beads each Relayer grabs every full circle around the track.

Members of the California Conservation Corps who came to volunteer at the Willits Relay event again this year were given a special "Thank you," for the 20 miles of laps they walked, and the clean-up and general help they offered. CCC volunteers came from South Lake Tahoe,

Vallejo, Chico, and San Diego, the young men told the crowd.

Some of the cancer survivors who were honored in the opening "Survivors Lap" Saturday morning were there Sunday morning, too, joining in the emotional final lap around the Rec Grove that closes the Relay event every year.

And the icing on the cake? The "Willits Relay for Life" Facebook page announced Sunday afternoon: "Arrow Fencing is sending a work crew to take down the Relay fencing at Willits Recreation Grove Park in the morning.... No Relay volunteers needed. Enjoy your Monday morning...."

Planning will be starting soon for next year's Relay For Life, set for July 23 and 24, 2016. To keep up with the local Relay, check the "Relay For Life of Willits, Ca" page on Facebook, and for more information about the American Cancer Society, visit www.cancer.org.

— Jennifer Poole



Photos by Jennifer Poole



At left, from top: A happy relayer; Carrie and Alycia Hardman of the Lady Bea's; Katie and Harry Mulhauser working the food booth.

Above, left, top: Cancer survivors lead the opening Relay lap. Above, left, below: Mendocino County Sheriff's Office's pink "cancer awareness" Chevy Camaro. Above, right: DJ Mike "Mikey T" Tobin and Relay event chair, Kathy Tobin.

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Wealth Management in Willits

Nicholas Casagrande's local office offers financial guidance to community

Helping to guide independent businesses and individuals towards a successful financial future is a large focus for Willits' newest financial services professional, Nicholas Casagrande, Enrolled Agent of NC Financial Group, who opened an office in Willits in October of 2014.

The office is located on the top floor of 660 South Main Street, a couple of blocks north of the Country Skillet.

Maureen Moore
Graphics & Photographress
maureen@willitsweekly.com

Casagrande is excited to have expanded to Willits, now including Mendocino in the group of counties served by NC Financial Group offices.

Currently, NC Financial has offices in downtown San Francisco and in Corte Madera, and was looking to open in another community outside the Bay Area. When looking for a piece of real estate to purchase, Casagrande happened across Willits and knew this was a great place. Casagrande bought a property in Willits, and thoroughly enjoys being a member of the community.

"This is it!" I thought," said Casagrande. "A vibrant community with a great culture and vibe and addicting energy. You can walk to breakfast, walk to the theater. Everyone I have met here has been a pleasure to work with and very inviting into the community."

Casagrande is currently offering guidance and assistance with taxes, investments, real estate, insurance and annuities, and financial planning. He enjoys helping new businesses or new investors get started on a path that will set them up for financial success. When seasoned companies approach him, he does a check-in with them, and they are happy to

retain his firm. His growing business was even featured in Forbes Magazine on October 20, 2014.

"When you start a business or come into an inheritance, there's no road map on what to do next," said Casagrande. "We want to help get you set on a path and, even though there's bound to be little fires along the way, we want to help clear off the proverbial "brush," allowing for the easiest way from here to financial security."

The earlier any investor starts, the longer investments can grow, and Casagrande can help set up IRA accounts and other retirement plans to help maximize the weeks of growth left from now until retirement.

"Think about what age you want to retire, then what age you are now," explained Casagrande. "Subtract the second number from the first, and multiply that by 52 weeks. That's the number of weeks you have to save money towards your retirement. Let's start making those weeks count!"

Casagrande is proud to have a degree in math and a minor in chemistry, both of which fuel his love of solving problems. His career in financial management allows him to work on problems and find solutions in much the same way. He also relies on the support of his network of colleagues and his experience with dealing with the Franchise Tax Board, and the IRS to persevere through more complicated situations to help ensure his clients get the best outcome.

Casagrande is usually in the Willits office on Thursday, Friday and Saturday on the second week of the month, but stressed that he is available by appointment with much more flexibility.

"It's a short and enjoyable drive up to Willits," he explained.



Nicholas Casagrande
of NC Financial Group.
Photo by Maureen Moore

"And I'm happy to meet with clients at their convenience."

To set up an appointment, or to learn more about financial planning, contact Nicholas Casagrande, EA at 660 South Main Street or 415-480-3669 or by emailing nicholas@ncfinancialgroup.com to set up an appointment.

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Furry Friends Hoping for a Home
Happy Bandit
Bandit is a 2-year-old neutered male mixed-breed dog who currently weighs 23 pounds. Bandit is a very happy, affectionate dog. He is also smart and attentive. Bandit will do most anything, especially "sit" for a piece of cheese. We imagine Bandit fitting right in to any type of home, as long as he is considered a member of the family.
The Ukiah Animal Shelter is located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, and our adoption hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm and Wednesday from 10 am to 6 pm.
We have many wonderful dogs and cats, awaiting their forever homes here. To view photos and bios of more of our wonderful adoptable animals, please visit our website: www.mendoshelterpets.com or visit our shelter during shelter hours. More info about adoptions: 467-6453.
Photo by Rod Coots

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Run the same full color ad both editions. Choose your size!
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The rest of Elections | From Page 1

\$850,000 annual budget, four employees and 40 volunteers. The main "hot item" on the board's agenda is finding an effective strategy to raise funds for a new firehouse. Three seats are open during this election cycle. As of July 27, no one had yet filed papers to run.

Willits Unified School District

Five trustees sit on the governing board of the local school district. Members usually hold one long meeting a month and sometimes one or two shorter meetings. The board of trustees is charged with establishing policy and exercising oversight over district staff, including the superintendent of schools. The district's budget is \$18 million. Trustees Alex Bowlds and Saprina Rodriguez are up for re-election. As of July 27, neither of them, nor any other member of the public, had filed papers to run.

Mendocino-Lake Community College

This seven-person board oversees the activities of the college's administration. The college currently offers educational opportunities to 3,775 students on four campuses, including satellite campuses in Willits, Lakeport, and Point Arena, with the main campus in Ukiah. In the upcoming election, the seat for the Willits representative, currently occupied by Paul Ubelhart, is up for election. As of July 27, Ubelhart has filed to run, as has educator Rick Kale. They will be running against each other for the one open seat representing Willits.

Mendocino County Board of Education

The county Office of Education provides oversight and support for nine school districts in Mendocino County, and also offers educational programs directly to the public. In 2014, its budget was \$14.3 million. The office is governed by a five-person board of education. Charlene Ford is the representative for the Third Supervisorial District, which includes Willits, Laytonville and Covelo. Her seat is up for election this November. As of July 27, neither Ford nor any other person had filed to run for her seat.

Brooktrails Community Services District

Brooktrails Township is an unincorporated special district with a population of 3,311, making it the fourth most populous jurisdiction in Mendocino County. A five-person board of directors is charged with governing the district and overseeing its staff. The district holds an average of two meetings a month, and its budget is under \$4 million. In this election cycle, two long-term seats, now occupied by Tim Ramming and Ralph Santos, as well as one short-term seat, now occupied by Ed Horrock, are up for election. As of July 27, only Horrock had filed to run for the short-term seat, and no one had filed for the long-term seats.

According to Assistant Registrar of Voters Katrina Bartolomei, the deadline to file papers to run for office in the November 2015 election is 5 pm on Friday, August 5. If the incumbent in any seat has not filed by the deadline, then non-incumbents have an extended deadline until the following Wednesday, August 12, at 5 pm to file papers to run. People wishing to run for office for these special districts may obtain papers at the office of the Mendocino County Assessor-Clerk-Recorder, 501 Low Gap Road in Ukiah.

Info: 234-6827.

The rest of Principals | From Page 1

Johnson said both cited family situations as the reason they could not accept the positions.

A third candidate declined a job offer on Thursday, July 23, Johnson said. A fourth candidate is scheduled for an interview with the board of trustees on Thursday, July 30.

In response to what appears to be a trend, Johnson said she and the board of trustees have agreed on a plan to grow their own administrators from Willits Unified's teaching staff.

"What I have found out here is that people don't like to leave Willits," Johnson said. "Therefore, if we can attract internal candidates to those positions – people who are already here and who know Willits and know the district and the schools – I think that would be the best for our district over the long term."

To that end, Johnson is proposing a two-year internal succession plan to develop home-grown school principals. In year one (2015-16), the district would hire one person to be the principal of both Brookside and Blosser Lane schools. The district would also bring two administrators out of retirement to work as assistant principals for each school. These assistant principals would also help to write job descriptions for the position of elementary school assistant principals.

In year two (2016-17), the district will hire two local candidates to fill two assistant principal positions at Brookside and Blosser Lane schools. Thereafter, when the time is right, those people would be moved up into the position of principal at each of the district's two elementary schools.

Johnson said that third candidate turned down the job offer as principal just minutes before a special board meeting that was held on July 23. The closed session period, which was scheduled to last 15 minutes, went on for an hour and a half, and it was then Johnson and the board discussed her idea for an internal succession plan. When closed session ended, the board went into an open session period, during which it voted unanimously to hire Laura Sleeper, currently executive secretary to the district superintendent, as human resources director for the district.

Johnson said Sleeper began her duties as HR director the next day. The executive secretary position is now open, and the district is seeking applicants for that position.

The board and Johnson have scheduled a board meeting for the afternoon of Thursday, July 30, with a closed session starting at 3 pm and an open session starting at 4 pm, at the Blosser Lane Elementary School library.

The rest of Remco | From Page 1

soon, or face a deadline to demolish the existing building.

The city can approve one project, both projects, or neither, attorneys from the Remco remediation trust and City Attorney Jim Lance stated.

A proposal from the Skunk Train envisions the property as a hub of Skunk Train tourism. The other project envisions a variety of uses.

When Skunk Train boss Pinoli pitched his plans to the council in June, he talked about the train's worldwide recognition, arguing the train was part of the county's social fabric.

Mitchell told councilmembers he sees the property as home to a brewery, a redwood furniture manufacturing facility, and a business park with room for a new firehouse and a public safety training facility.

Pinoli's project would convert the property to a depot and a place to repair and build passenger cars, space for indoor boarding of trains, a

The rest of Petition | From Page 1

to put the initiative on the June 2016 ballot. If approved by voters, the measure would declare the practice of leaving hack-and-squirted trees standing dead in the forest for more than 90 days a public nuisance.

In a hack-and-squirt treatment, undesirable hardwood trees, usually tanoaks, are cut into with a hatchet. An herbicide, currently and in most cases Imazapyr, is squirted into the trees, which then die within a month. The trees are frequently left standing in the forest.

Mendocino Redwood Company President and Chief Forester Mike Jani has stated that his company has treated more than 65,000 acres of its timberlands with the hack-and-squirt practice. Jani described the hack-and-squirt method as an "important and necessary tool" in MRC's forest management plans.

When asked why he and his group are trying to get the hack-and-squirt practice declared a public nuisance, Williams said that if companies that employ the method fail to cooperate with citizen concerns it may affect their Forest Stewardship Council certification.

"Some of these companies, like for example MRC, have had a Forest Stewardship Council certification, and part of the requirement of that certification is that the company work with the community to address community concerns," Williams said. "Our thought is, if they fail to work with us on this and to address our concerns, that could affect whether or not they keep their certification. I think this is a concern on their part that would cause them to think twice about what they are doing."

According to Williams, the hack-and-squirt method, especially the component in which dead trees are allowed to stand in place in the forest, greatly increases the risk and intensity of fire.

"Dead trees ignite more easily and burn hotter and faster, endangering everyone who lives near the dead zones," said Williams. "They also pose increased danger to firefighters who are called upon to respond to such fires. A dead tree burning is one of the most dangerous situations a firefighter can face, and that hazard increases exponentially as the number of dead trees rises."

In addition to Chief Williams, the initiative petition has been filed by retired CalFire Air Attack Captain Kirk Van Patten, volunteer firefighters Mike Coltan and James Sibbet, and Comptche resident Katy Tahja.

In a conversation with Willits Weekly, MRC's Jani said he had just learned about the intent to circulate a petition on Wednesday, July 29. "In light of the step that the board of supervisors took, which I thought was pretty clear, I think that it is unfortunate that this group went ahead with this process," Jani said.

"I think that getting a group of people who are learned in fire science to look at this on the ground and then to make recommendations would be a more prudent way and a more deliberate way to proceed in this."

MRC is the largest landowner in the county, with some 225,000 acres of timberland. The company website states that it is the goal of the company to "work to make our forestlands the best they can be in a timeframe that matters to people who are alive today."

A letter from MRC brass to company employees on its tanoak policies reminds the employees of some of the company's environmental achievements, including adding more than 1 billion board feet of timber inventory over the past 17 years by lowering the rate of harvest; eliminating traditional clear cutting; improving fish habitat by controlling or holding back more than 1 million cubic yards of sediment (or the equivalent of 100,000 dump truck loads of sediment) from the rivers and streams that flow through MRC property; and removing 36 long standing fish barriers which have added more than 20 miles to the length of fish-bearing streams on MRC property.

Jani said that MRC will be up for Forest Stewardship Council re-certification in September.

The rest of Permit | From Page 1

their support. Jane Chesser spoke for Daniel Chesser who, for health reasons she said, did not speak that night.

"John's has been an institution in Willits for 80-plus years and serves its purpose well," said Chesser.

The eight-decades-long history of the bar could not sway a majority of council members to approve the use permit at the July 22 meeting.

Concerns about the property's location near Willits High School and for the students who would presumably be near it or walk past it on the sidewalk contributed to the lack of support.

Mayor Bruce Burton was one of the "no" votes, saying he was "tired of seeing a continual demoralization of standards."

Burton said he did not support the bar being so close to a school, and did not understand why its former home on Commercial Street had not been rebuilt yet.

Willits High School teacher Laura Herman, a member of the Willits Teachers Association, spoke to council members regarding her concerns and submitted a letter signed by 30 or 40 other educators.

Herman said she had a problem with a location so close to the high school campus.

"Another thing I have learned," said Herman: "the culture of a town has a huge influence on the behavior of a child."

Property owner Al Nanna noted the element of derelict behavior and litter has decreased about 80 percent on the property since people arrived there to ready it for permit approval.

Traffic was another concern raised by some, like Bittenbender Lane residents Jim and Jeanne King.

What happens when traffic backs up in the Sherwood Road turning lane? "As far as traffic goes, have you ever tried to get out of Taco Bell? It is the same thing," said Nanna.

"I am finding this a very difficult decision to make," Councilwoman Madge Strong said.

Strong, along with Burton and Ron Orenstein, voted to deny the use permit. Larry Stranske and Holly Madrigal supported the permit.

A longtime wood shop teacher at the high school, Stranske said he never saw kids with a beverage from John's Place.

The bar's old home was in a complex that shared walls with a liquor store and a pre-school, and with the Willits Charter School before WCS moved to the south end of town.

Saprina Rodriguez, a member of the school board, owns Imagination Station preschool, which shared a wall with the bar prior to the fire.

"I can tell you as a board member I am not in favor of the project," Rodriguez said. But as a victim of the fire, she also sympathized with Chesser's significant loss.

The city's contract planner, Dusty Duley, stated in a report on the use permit that city code does not specify separation of bars and other types of land uses, but the state Alcoholic Beverages Commission, which does have distance requirements, would have needed to approve transferring the liquor license to the new location.

The rest of REACH | From Page 1

from the city or REACH: It asks that REACH operate its helicopter from a parking pad.

The agreement stated all parties would pay for their own legal expenses related to the suit. Councilwoman Holly Madrigal voted "no" on the settlement.

Willits-based Keep the Code and Santa Rosa attorney Rose Zoia claimed in the suit that the city did not conduct an adequate review of REACH's airport use under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Concerns listed in the suit, filed in April, included noise from the helicopter and biological concerns, such as possible ill effects on the spotted owl. Spotted owls hold a classification of "threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Restricting flight departures or arrivals was not an option for REACH attorneys Michael Van Zandt and Caroline Lee.

Flights like those made by REACH, the attorneys stated in court documents, are exempt from local ordinances that restrict flight hours, restrictions

due to noise or certain aircraft types.

REACH's attorneys argued the city followed a process similar to what timberland owners do when proposing a timber harvest plan to the California Department of Forestry.

The city learned, the attorney wrote, that the project "would likely not result in the take of a spotted owl."

Council members voted 4-0 in March to approve REACH's plans to operate a helicopter from the airport to transport hospital patients and respond to 911 calls.

That vote approved a document called a "Mitigated Negative Declaration," which stated no additional processes under the state's Environmental Quality Act were required.

REACH's operations, as described in documents, are to be a .34-acre lease with a modular building, four parking spaces, a fuel truck on-site, and an Airbus EC 135 helicopter parked on a pad.

supported moving forward with those conditions.

Lance urged council members to look at the city's general plan document to help guide decision-making for the property.

The plan offers policies for expedited approval of some projects, and identified directives that called for attracting industry to Willits.

The economic development portion of the plan stated the city's economic goal in one sentence: "Foster and maintain a vibrant diversified self-sustaining local economy."

Mayor Bruce Burton is a partner in Mitchell's proposal and was not present for talks about Remco. Councilman Larry Stranske voted "no" to the new conditions.

Before the vote, Stranske said he didn't think it was the council's business to decide if one business was better than another: "I think it has come time that we make a move on this as a council," he said.

August Calendar

MONDAY POINTS DAYS 5X POINTS

All Players Club members will earn 5X Points from 10A to 11P on the days of the promotion!

TUESDAY ROOSTER

MORNING SESSION 8AM — 12PM

-3X POINTS (8A TO 12P)
-PLAY \$40 AND RECEIVE \$10 FREE PLAY
-\$2 FOOD SPECIAL BREAKFAST (8A TO 11A ON EACH SPECIFIC WEDNESDAY) COUPON.
COUPON TO BE GIVEN AT THE PLAYERS CLUB
AFTER "PLAY \$40 - RECEIVE \$10" HAS BEEN REDEEMED

& OWLS

EVENING SESSION 6PM TO 10PM

-3X POINTS (8A TO 12P)
-PLAY \$40 AND RECEIVE \$10 FREE PLAY
IF REDEEMED ALREADY FOR THE MORNING SESSION,
\$75 TOTAL PLAY WILL BE REQUIRED FOR
\$10 BONUS PLAY FOR THE EVENING SESSION.
CUSTOMERS MAY REDEEM ONLY ONCE PER SESSION FOR THE BONUS PLAY.
-\$4 FOOD EVENING SPECIAL
(6P TO 10P ON EACH SPECIFIC WEDNESDAY) COUPON.
COUPON TO BE GIVEN AT THE PLAYERS CLUB AFTER
"PLAY \$40 - RECEIVE \$10" HAS BEEN REDEEMED

HOT SEAT DRAWINGS

7P, 8P, 9P & 10P - \$50 CASH FOR EACH WINNER

HOT WEDNESDAYS HOT SEATS

MORNING SESSION:

11A to 3P - 2 random winners/hour
(8 winners).

EVENING SESSION:

7P to 9P - 2 random
winners/hour
(4 winners).

Each winner will win
\$60 in Free Play.

9P to 10P - 3 random
winners/hour
(3 winners).

Each winner will win \$120 in Free Play.

THURSDAY

SUPER Senior DAY

50% discount food coupon
issued (to be used for that day
only) when the customer has
earned minimally 50 points
from 10A to 7P.

5X POINTS from 10P to 12A!

BINGO

\$100 GAME
11AM, 12PM & 1PM

Players Club members must have earned
minimally 50 points to receive a bingo card
for the 11A, 12P and 1P bingo games.

\$200 GAME
7PM & 8PM

\$250 GAME
9PM

Players Club members must have earned minimally 70 points (throughout the
day) to receive a bingo card for the 7P, 8P & 9P bingo games.

If two customer's claim the win together,
the prize amount is "split" between the two winners.

SATURDAY SLOT TOURNAMENTS!

EARLY SESSION

1ST PRIZE...\$100 CASH

2ND PRIZE...\$50 CASH

3RD PRIZE....\$30 CASH

4TH THRU 6TH...\$25 FREE PLAY (EACH)

Registration starts at 11A
Tournament Starts at 1P
-40 Points redeemed (points must
be earned on the particular Saturday)
-Limited space available
-3 Minute Tournament

FRIDAY NIGHT EACH FRIDAY

PAYDAY!

7:00PM \$100	8:00PM \$100	15 POINTS/ENTRY	9:00PM \$125
9:30PM \$175	10:00PM \$200	10:30PM \$300	\$1,000 PAID OUT!

At each drawing (except the 10:30P drawing), an entry will be drawn
from the Raffle Barrel. The winning customer will have approx. one
minute to claim their prize. If the number is not claimed the money for the
specific drawing will be forwarded to the next drawing for the night. For
example; if the 7P drawing has no winner, the \$100 will be forwarded to
the 8P drawing and will be worth \$200.

**August
1, 8, 15,
22 and 29**

EVENING SESSION

1ST PRIZE...\$200 CASH

2ND PRIZE...\$150 CASH

3RD PRIZE....\$100 CASH

4TH THRU 6TH...\$50 FREE PLAY (EACH)

Registration starts at 6P
Tournament starts at 8P
80 Points redeemed (points must
be earned on the particular Saturday)
-Limited space available
-3 Minute Tournament

HOT SEAT DRAWINGS 9A-11P

12pm to 2pm

2 winners/hour (4 winners).
Each winner will win \$30 in Free Play.

3pm to 5pm

2 winners/hour (9 winners).
Each winner will win \$50 in Free Play.

3pm to 5pm

2 winners/hour (9 winners).
Each winner will win \$50 in Free Play.

Sunday Fun Days!

-Customers may win up to twice each Sunday for this promotion.
-All Free play that is won via the Hot Seat drawings must be used by 2A
on the same gaming day, or the winnings (Free Play) will be removed
from the customer's account.

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